

The following letter was written by Mr, J .C . Harper of Knapps Creek and printed in the Pocahontas Times of December 19th 1940.

KKNAPPS CREEK AGAIN.

Dear Mr, Price: (Editor of the Pocahontas Times)

I was interested in Wilma Beard Harper, s inquiry in your issue of November/0 28th as to who Knapps Creek was named for. I also noted with interest your answer in the same issue.

I read in the last issue of the Times, date date of Dec 12th, an article of Mr, ^I Ewing, am of the opinion like Mr Ewing, that there is and probably always ^{Will} be a question as to the man who should be honored with the name. However I should not be at home now, if I should wake up some morning and find I was living on Ewing Creek. Being of the fourth generation of the Harpers who have lived here in the heart of the valley , I beg to pass on the following information :

When a mere lad , fifty or sixty years ago, I well remember of hearing my grand father say, that Knapps Creek was named in honor of a man by the name of Knapp who lived on the bank near where the public road now is and opposite the present home of Ward Cleek. Also when a boy I enjoyed sitting by the open wood fire, and listen to my mother tell us of the past history of our local community, many of the things she stated were stored in my mind . This was in the days when children were anxious to listen to older folks and were taught that a still tongue made a wise head. My great grandmother died in 1870 at a ripe old age. The first few years of my mothers married life were spent with her . I have heard my mother make statements ~~I heard my mother~~ in regard to this Mr Knapp, same as I heard grandfather and she would say grandmother told me so . And from this history which is not written I am convinced of the location of where this man lived . And it was never mentioned to me but what the name was spelled Knapp. It may have been Caleb Knapp.

Now as to Napthalem Gregory , in my mind he can have the honor of the old Spur road, which crossed the mountain , near where H.I.Shinaberry now lives. This was called Nap, s Spur Road and was very much used prior to buggy days. Some wagons and traveled this road in the early days .

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To verify the name, I have in my possession a grant of land from the Commonwealth of Virginia to my great grand father , Henry Harper, dated 1825, signed by John Tyler Governor. In the courses of ^{the} land trees are called for on this road mentioned as " Nap,s Spur Road " This road leaves Little Back Creek near the old Chestnut home, following a long ridge to the top of the Allegheny Mountain , then following the top for some distance around the head waters of Laurel Run Creek , thence around the East end of the Little Mountain and down along the ridge to the Knapps Creek Valley near the site of Harpers Mill. It is still evident that a long time ago considerable digging was done on this road at several places.

J.C.Harper.

Huntersville, West Va.

CUMMINS CREEK:- Cummins Creek is a branch of Knapps Creek that gives rise near the top of the Brushy Mountain it flows practically due North for a distance of 6 miles to join Knapps Creek near Huntersville

It has a total fall of 1000 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 166.6 feet, and has a drainage area of 11 square miles.

Cummins Creek began settlement about the time of the formation of Pocahontas and was so named from a pioneer by the name of Cummins.

LAUREL CREEK :- Laurel Creek with its numerous branches is Knapps Creek largest tributary from a stand point of volume. Laurel Creek has its source high up on Allegheny Mountain only 3.6 miles (air line distance) from its mouth but flows in a southerly direction to Rimel where it is joined by Cochran Creek, with its numerous tributaries from the south, Thence it flows ~~South~~ North west, cutting a gorge across the the north end of Middle Mountain. and is joined by Doutharty Creek also from the south, one mile south of Minnehaha Springs, where it enters Knapps Creek

The principal branches of the Laurel Creek are Doutharty Creek with an entire length of 6.3 miles with a total fall of 760 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 120.6 feet. and has a drainage area basin of 11.65 square miles. ~~Cochran~~ Cochran creek with an entire length of 4.9 miles with a total fall of 950 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 193.8 feet it ~~has~~ has a drainage basin of 9.72 square miles other minor branches are Riders Run, 1.7 miles long. Big Sandy Run, 1.9 miles long Two Lick Run, 1.4 miles long. Lost Bottom Run 1.7 miles long, Widemouth Run, 2.5 miles long, Laurel Run 1.7 miles long, Lackridge Run 1.4 miles long.

The main branches of Laurel Creek were so named as follows; Douthart Creek was named from Michael Daugherty, one of the early pioneer settlers of the Knapps ~~Creek~~ Creek Valley his home was on the lands now owned by Ward Cleek; He settled there about the year of 1770.

The Cochran Creek was so named in honor of the pioneer family of Cochrans who settled in the County while under the regime of Bath County Virginia, Laurel Creek has a total drainage area of 30.68 square miles.